It's September Already?!

Numismagram Newsletter #49 (IX/2020)

Somehow, we are already at September, as 2020 is officially 2/3 of the way over. Given the general state of affairs with regard to just about everything, this probably is welcome news to just about everyone. Locally, our 2020 surprise has been numerous wildfires sparked by—*what else*—a freak thunderstorm and accompanying lightning strikes. Though rather unusual for our area of Northern California, we can all agree that it sounds about par for 2020. Above is an image of the sun piercing rather ominously through the smoked-filled skies only a few days into the fires. Thankfully, these fires are getting under control, and the poor air quality emanating from the smoke is beginning to improve, allowing us to set aside our N-95 masks for the more fashionable, COVID-mitigating masks once again.

In honor of a new month—*and September specifically*—we have another upload of great art medals and plaques. Indeed, we even have one for, what else, September?

This interesting open work issue was cast in iron circa 1930, and is part of an entire series each featuring a different month.

Medicine and health have been the dominating topics in this most unusual year, and this month's upload has a particular focus upon these very concepts. We're all eager for a vaccine and/or preventative measures to stem the chaos caused by the coronavirus, and a similar breakthrough was celebrated on this bronze medal from around 1912…

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In this instance, the disease in question was…syphilis. Yes, this medal deals with a VD, but at the time, it was not something that was easily treated, and ultimately led to neurological issues that could wrack the central nervous system and lead to death. Even more importantly, this discovery led to the idea that a particular drug could act as a "magic bullet," meaning that a targeted treatment could be found or created that would zero-in upon a disease, leaving the rest of the body relatively unharmed—a major concept in the advent of chemotherapy, for example.

Speaking of the brain, another medal in this upload celebrates the Czech anatomist and professor, Jan Kolda, and features a somewhat stylized human brain viewed from above on the reverse…

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Another plaque—*this time from Belgium in 1958*—was issued for the 3rd World Cardiology Conference, and rather appropriately features a robed scholar holding a human heart in his hand while contemplating…

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Lastly, a highly celebrated local doctor from Sweden, Ernst Otto Theodor Westerlund, is featured on yet another *Medicina in Nummis* issue. This beloved physician led quite the life, and even has a statue dedicated to him in his hometown of Enköping…

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The remainder of this month's new items includes a couple zeppelin-related issues, some superbly toned gems, an "opium dollar" from Japan, a Nova Cæsarea copper, medals with an elephant and a locomotive, and even a firemen's parade badge from upstate New York! Click here (https://shoutout.wix.com/so/57NH8QTzt/c?w=7woW4BaZ61_MS9UGhn_opULYQjBMWTjNh80jaTlTzF0.eyJ1IjoiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubnVtaXNtYWdyYW0uY29tL2ludmVudG9yeSIsInIiOiI0YjUyMGZmNC0wZDVkLTRjODktNDMxNS1kNzZhNzI4YmY5NjEiLCJtIjoibWFpbF9scCIsImMiOiJkOTlhZDI4My1mODhmLTQwNjYtYTBmNS0wMGRlOWU3YTg2MWMifQ) or the banner image below to view all of the new additions, and be sure to stay tuned for a special upload dedicated to the Swedish engraver Erik Lindberg coming soon!

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